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Serial No. 10/553,132

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Art Unit 2872

Reply to Advisory Action of March 12, 2010.Amendments to Claims

Claims 1-12 (cancelled).

13. (previously presented) An optical device comprising a first combination of birefringent prisms with parallel optic axes for dividing an optical input beam into polarized beams, a second combination of birefringent prisms with parallel optic axes for combining polarized beams into an output beam, and a polarization changer disposed between said first combination of birefringent prisms and said second combination of birefringent prisms, wherein each birefringent prism of each said combination of birefringent prisms has oblique input and output faces.

14. (previously presented) The optical device of claim 13, further comprising a third combination of birefringent prisms with parallel optic axes disposed between said polarization changer and said second combination of birefringent prisms, wherein each birefringent prism of said third combination of birefringent prisms has oblique input and output faces.

15. (previously presented) The optical device of claim 13, wherein prisms of at least one combination of birefringent prisms are arranged about at least one reflector or refractor.

16. (previously presented) The optical device of claim 13, wherein prisms of at least one combination of birefringent prisms are arranged about a polarization changer.

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17. (previously presented) The optical device of claim 13, wherein said device is an optical isolator, wherein light entering a first port of said device exits through a second port of said device, wherein light entering said second port does not exit through said first port, wherein at least one polarization changer of said device is a nonreciprocal polarization changer.

18. (previously presented) The optical device of claim 13, wherein said device is an optical attenuator, wherein light entering a first port of said device exits through a second port of said device with an intensity as determined by an intensity varying means, wherein at least one polarization changer of said device is a reciprocal polarization changer.

19. (previously presented) The optical device of claim 13, wherein said device is an optical circulator, wherein light entering a first port of said device exits through a second port of said device, wherein light entering said second port exits through a third port of said device, wherein at least one polarization changer of said device is a nonreciprocal polarization changer.

20. (previously presented) The optical device of claim 13, wherein said device is an optical switch, wherein light entering a first port of said device exits through a second port of said device or through a third port of said device as determined by a switching means, wherein at least one polarization changer of said device is a reciprocal polarization changer.